



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
*1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

March 14, 2001

TO: State Board of Health Members  
FROM: Doreen Garcia, Senior Health Policy Advisor  
RE: Study of Well Child Check-Ups

**Background and Summary:**

At the January Board meeting, the Board made a joint decision with the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to survey a sample of parents to determine the number of children who received well child exams by kindergarten entry. Vickie Ybarra, Chair of the Boards' Subcommittee on Children's Health and Well Being, is the Board Sponsor of this effort. Our goal is to assess how many kindergartners have had comprehensive well child exams by September, what information or resources they may need to obtain that exam, and how to assist them.

To accomplish this, we have been in discussion with the designated liaison from each agency to develop a common work plan. We believe parents need information about well child exams and how to obtain them in May at the time of kindergarten enrollment. The people who will verify the check-ups need a common way to gather necessary information, and resources need to be identified to assist parents in getting their child the check-up. Such resources may include insurance coverage, help in finding a provider, or assistance in getting to the exam.

Four local health jurisdictions have agreed to serve as study sites: (1) Public Health Seattle and King County, (2) Jefferson County Health Department, (3) Spokane Regional Health District, and (4) Yakima Health District. At this time, OSPI is identifying the school districts within these counties to determine which school buildings will participate. We are striving to have the schools reflect the overall demographics in Washington. This spring, we will work to design an approach to collecting and analyzing the information. This will include determining common elements to measure, how to collect the information in a comparable way, and how to analyze the data to produce useful information.

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At the Board meeting today, we will discuss the status of this study. We have invited the state agency representatives and a local health jurisdiction administrator to discuss their desired role in this effort.

We seek to update you on the status of the effort and to obtain your guidance for how we should proceed.

**Recommended Board Action**

The Board may want to consider, amend, and approve the following statement:

***The Board should continue to oversee and coordinate joint efforts among OSPI, DSHS, DOH, willing local health jurisdictions, and other willing agencies and organizations to assess the number of children receiving well child exams by kindergarten entry. The Board hopes to receive the results of this study by fall, 2001, and intends to make the results available to interested persons.***